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## **Legislation introduced to provide differential pay to soldiers, Sen. Jelinek and Rep. Proos respond to local need**

**LANSING** – Legislation allowing local units of government to provide differential pay for employees required to take a leave of absence to enter into active military service was introduced in the Legislature by Sen. Ron Jelinek and Rep. John Proos.

Senate Bill 126 and House Bill 4117 would not make differential or supplemental pay mandatory, rather it allows a local governmental unit the option to provide differential benefits to an employee called to active duty in the United States Armed Forces.

“We want to make life as easy as possible for our men and women serving our country and the families they leave behind,” said Jelinek, R-Three Oaks. “Giving their employers the option to provide them differential pay is highly beneficial to the families to allow them to continue their normal everyday living without worrying about a loss of income.”

This legislation will resolve legal complications faced by local units of government who wish to offer differential pay.

“I am pleased to work with Senator Jelinek to address a problem found right here in Berrien County,” said Proos, R-St. Joseph. “I am very proud that my first legislative initiative in the Michigan Legislature will provide support to those that risk their lives everyday for the goals of our nation. I will work hard to ensure that this bi-partisan measure becomes law.”

SB 126 and HB 4117 will now go to Senate and House committees for consideration.

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